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LETTER

TO A

MEMBER of PARLIAMENT,

ON THE

Preſent DISTRESSES of the POOR;

THE

Real CAUSES of thoſe DISTRESSES,

AND THE MOST

Probable MEANS of removing them.

In this letter the Author has conſidered the Expediency of Curtailing the Bounty upon Corn;

AND

Rendered it inconteſtibly evident, that nothing but the Continuance of the Bounty, can keep a plentiful Supply of Grain in the Kingdom.

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LETTER

TO A

Member of Parliament, &c.

AS many extraordinary animadverſions have for ſome time paſt been circulated in our public prints, about the price of corn, the author of the following pages, has employed himſelf in examining the juſtice of the numberleſs invectives, thrown out in theſe animadverſions, gainſt the dealers in that commodity, and as the reſult of his enquiries may poſſibly be of ſome uſe at the preſent critical pe-

riod, he has here taken the liberty of ſubmitting the real ſtate of things to the diſpaſſionate conſideration of the public.

It has been induſtriouſly propagated, and as implicitly credited through all parts of the kingdom, that wheat has been every where raiſed to a moſt extravagant price, though the price in fact, at the time of theſe complaints was extremely moderate, exceeding five ſhillings a buſhel but in very few places; and though even this ſum would not have experienced the leaſt advance in any place; and in moſt, particularly in the North, and in the Eaſtern counties, would have been actually leſſened, but for the ignorant repreſentations of the weak, and the inflammatory writings of the intereſted, who by continually declaiming about a ſcarcity of corn, naturally led the dealers in grain, to ſet an additional value upon their property, and to proportion this value like the dealers in every other merchandize, to the general idea of the public want.—To theſe injudicious or malevolent productions of our writers on corn, the

the late inſurrections through the country may be principally attributed; and if reaſon was candidly to decide upon the ſubject, thoſe might be ſet down as the greateſt enemies of the public, who have affected to appear amongſt the warmeſt of it's friends.

But if the invectives thus illeberally thrown out againſt the graziers, the farmers and the dealers in corn, muſt appear ſo extraordinary in the eye of an unprejudiced reader, what muſt he think of the numberleſs complaints which have been raiſed againſt the national indulgence in granting a bounty to corn, when it is this very bounty, which has rendered the buſineſs of agriculture ſo general through the kingdom, and induced a variety of farmers to occupy large tracts of country in tillage, which muſt otherwiſe have been appropriated to widely different purpoſes. — For twenty years before this bounty was eſtabliſhed, by the wiſdom of government, corn was frequently at ſeven or eight ſhillings a buſhel, and never at leſs than five, though the value of

money was much higher at that time than it is now; the ſame cauſes muſt naturally produce the ſame effects, ſo that unleſs the very bounty which is complained of, as an inſupportable grievance, had not led the farmer to the tillage of his grounds, we may reaſonably ſuppoſe, what with the deficiency of crops, and the unwillingneſs to grow corn, that wheat muſt at this time have borne an exorbitant price indeed; and furniſhed the moſt ample occaſion for the exclamations of the public.

The eye of a narrow minded ignorance, or a deſpicable ſelf-intereſt, cannot however, or will not pay a juſt attention even to the moſt evident arguments; weakly or wickedly ſuppoſing that thoſe very laws which are immediately calculated for the general good, have a tendency to prejudice the community, it either dreads or creates a number of the heavieſt calamities, and condemns thoſe meaſures with the moſt unremitting degree of virulence, which are in fact moſt intituled to it's warmeſt approbation.—

But

But inconſiſtency is unhappily the caracteriſtic of the Engliſh nation; and never was this characteriſtic more flagrantly apparent, than in the late inſurrections about the price of proviſion, when thoſe who complained that they were periſhing for bread, deſtroyed the corn that was to yield them a ſupport, and even pulled down the houſes and threatened the lives of thoſe, who were haſtening with ſuſtenance to their relief.

Notwithſtanding we may readily imagine that a number of poor people are reduced to great difficulties in this country, when proviſions bear an extraordinary price, yet if we examine the matter cloſely, we ſhall find that the lower orders generally murmur, not becauſe they are in want of immediate neceſſaries, but becauſe every advancement in the rate, takes away ſo much from the purpoſes of luxury and diſſipation. In times of ſcarcity they will by no means think of accommodating to the narrowneſs of their circumſtances; on the contrary, they look for the ſame undeviating round of plenty

which

which they enjoyed at the moſt fortunate periods; and will much ſooner violate the laws of their country, then make any abridgment in their expences.—Formerly when wheat bore an uncommon price, our poor could content themſelves with rye, barley, or oaten bread, judiciouſly confining themſelves to ſuch things as they were able to purchaſe— but now let the times be never ſo ſevere, they muſt eat of the very beſt — they muſt have their toaſt and their tea every morning as uſual; they muſt alſo have the ſame quantity of ſtrong liquors; and when the taxes upon the various articles of their luxury renders theſe atricles any way difficult to be obtained, the unfortunate farmer and grazier, are the only perſons expoſed to their reſentment, as if the members of theſe two profeſſions were the ſole and immediate authors of the general diſtreſs.

It is very odd however, that when the dealers in other neceſſaries of life, ſuch as in their favourite liquors, their brandy, their beer, or their gin; their candles, their coals, or their apparel; think it convenient

convenient to raiſe the price of their reſpective commodities, that the poor never fly to the ſame extremities with them, which they run to upon any imaginary act of extortion in the grazier or the huſbandman; on the contrary, let a dealer in theſe articles make never ſo trifling an excuſe for his conduct, they immediately take his word; and though they murmur at the additional expence, they offer no violence to his perſon or property; yet ſurely, if the exigencies of government have enhanced the price of liquors or manufactures, they have alſo enhanced the price of proviſions.—The landed intereſt is at this moment groaning under the burden of a moſt oppreſſive tax, which naturally obliges the owner to raiſe the value of his eſtate, and the tenant, as naturally to enhance the price of his commodity; therefore, if the public are content when a new duty compels the manufacturer to demand an advanced ſum for his goods, the ſame juſtice ſhould alſo induce it to acquieſe when a like neceſſity compels the huſbandman to make the ſame demand

mand—But no—our poor imagine that there are no rogues in the community, but among the dealers, in the immediate neceſſaries of life, and none but the farmer and grazier are denied that reaſonable right in the diſpoſition of their own property which is univerſally granted to all the reſt of their fellow ſubjects.

I ſhall readily admit the general belief that our farmers and graziers upon all occaſions endeavour to get as much as poſſible for their commodity; and are conſtantly deſirous of turning the product of their induſtry to the very beſt account — But is a circumſtance which is univerſally practiſed by the members of every other profeſſion, to be reckoned only criminal in them? Is it not the perpetual ſtudy of every manufacturer through the kingdom, to obtain the higheſt price he can for his goods; and ſhall the ſame action which is not only juſtifiable, but commendable in him, be imputed to the huſbandman as a want both of principal and humanity? If it is, we may as well proceed in our ravages; and continue to plunder

plunder the huſbandman in proportion to his ability, till we have entirely baniſhed him from ſociety.—In every country property ſhould be held inviolably ſacred, and every ſubject ſhould be equally certain of protection; yet in this nation, where we pretend to entertain ſuch well-grounded ſentiments of juſtice—we find the manufacturing members of the community continually exclaiming at the farmers for following the very example which is inceſſantly ſet by themſelves.—They can feel moſt compaſſionately for the diſtreſſes of the poor, but which of them nevertheleſs, from a ſentiment of pity, would ſell the verieſt wretch in the kingdom any article a penny cheaper on account of his diſtreſs? Will the ſhoemaker, for inſtance, if an indigent object goes to purchaſe his commodity, through a generous compunction abate one farthing of the market price? Will the taylor, who exclaims againſt the corn dealers for grinding the faces of the poor, out of pure humanity, cloath the naked on more moderate terms than the reſt of his brethren?

It would be madneſs to expect it.—The buſineſs of trade is to make the moſt of other peoples' wants—and the profeſſors of all, are endeavouring to obtain one ſelf ſame unvariable end, however widely they may ſeem to differ in the means.

Though every well-wiſher to the community, to ſay nothing of his compaſſion or generoſity, muſt be heartily concerned to ſee the lower orders of the kingdom, ſinking under any extraordinary weight of a real diſtreſs, yet ſtill he will find that nothing would be more repugnant, even to the intereſt of the manufacturing parts of the public, than the reduction of proviſions to too moderate a price—The poor of this country, however they may exclaim at the dearneſs of proviſion, are nevertheleſs no way benefitted, when they can ſupport their families at the moſt reaſonable rate; when the neceſſaries of life are eaſily purchaſed, they always grow idle, but never become rich; they ſlacken their induſtry, inſtead of raiſing their circumſtances; and without advancing their own intereſt in the leaſt materially,

rially prejudice that of the community: that this is inconteſtibly a juſt repreſentation, I ſhall appeal to the experience of every manufacturer in the kingdom.—There are few, I believe, who will deny but what in times of very great plenty, the two celebrated holidays of Saint Monday and Saint Tueſday are kept by their journeymen, with a moſt religious degree of punctuality, nay often their devotion is ſo exceſſively ardent, that a conſiderable part of the Wedneſday is waſted before the maſter can poſſibly get them to work—the conſequence of which is, that a third part of their induſtry is loſt to the public, and they are obliged to demand as much for the labour of four days as will diſcharge the expences, not only of their maintenance, but of their idleneſs and diſſipation; unleſs they are allowed extraordinary wages, therefore they will not work at all; and the manufacturer who muſt employ them at any rate, is reduced to a neceſſity of advancing the price of his goods; by this means the nation, beſides the loſs

ſuſtained by their general idleneſs on the days I have mentioned, ſuffers a freſh injury in this additional charge upon manufactures at home, and has this injury even aggravated by ſeeing her merchants perpetually underſold through all the markets of Europe.

On theſe accounts therefore nothing can be more repugnant, to the intereſt of manufactures, than ſuch an extraordinary cheapneſs in the price of proviſion, as will enable the inferior artificers to neglect a diligent application to the duties of their reſpective employments.—But beſides theſe arguments there are conſiderations of a ſtill more important nature, which ſhould induce us to keep our poor very cloſely to their work,—theſe conſiderations are of a moral nature, and regard no leſs their felicity in future, than a ſedulous proſecution of induſtry relates to their temporal happineſs; when the mind becomes once enervated by ſloth, it generally loſes every reliſh for virtue; idleneſs is a dangerous enemy even among the affluent, but when it once gets a footing

ing among the indigent, it leads them very frequently into the moſt fatal exceſſes. —Unable to ſupport an expenſive round of diſſipation, they are rendered deſperate by their extravagance; and are obliged to build the continuance of their pleaſures on the foundation of their crimes—Habitually loſt to ſhame, they become inſenſible of honeſty, and commence the avowed enemies of that community which they ought to have protected and enriched.— So that the life which was firſt of all contaminated by lazineſs, moſt commonly terminates in infamy, and the wretches themſelves are not only cut off from ſociety, but their miſerable families, to aggravate their guilt, become an additional burden to the public.—That this picture is no way heightned in the colouring, will be eaſily ſeen in the annals of our various priſons through the kingdom; which though daily teeming with criminals either for the plantations or the gibbet, nevertheleſs find an inexhauſtible ſource of objects, either for baniſhment or death,

and

and appear rather to grow than decreaſe in the melancholy number of reſidents.

It has of late become extremely faſhionable, for our public writers to expatiate on the diſtreſſes of the poor, and the ſufferings of the inferior artizans in particular, are ſo many eternal ſubjects of patriotic commiſſeration; the arguments made uſe of by theſe gentlemen are always well attended to, becauſe they carry a ſtrong appearance of benevolence, and ſeem to reſult from nothing but an exalted principle of humanity. — Yet in fact were we to conſider the caſe minutely, we ſhould find that the poor are the general cauſes of their own misfortunes— When proviſions are cheap, and labour is plenty, their idleneſs, as I have already obſerved, encreaſes the price of manufactures, and this encreaſe of price, enabling our neighbours to underſell us at all the foreign markets, the demand for Engliſh goods of conſequence diminiſhes, and a number of ingenious artificers muſt of courſe be unemployed.

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The revenue on manufactures being by this means leſſened, the government, to raiſe the neceſſary ſupplies, is obliged to lay freſh burdens upon the landed intereſt, and the land-holder, willing to render the load as eaſy as poſſible to himſelf, naturally embrace every opportunity of ſhifting it upon the ſhoulders of the public. —Hence the ſituation of the inferior mechanic becomes doubly diſtreſsful, for work not only grows ſcarce, but proviſion grows dear; and at the ſelf-ſame inſtant he finds an unavoidable addition to his expences, and unavoidable contraction of his means.—Whereas when employment was plenty, and ſuſtenance cheap, had he prudently avoided extravagance and prodigality, he might have continued bleſſed with abundance, and inſtead of wanting charity from others, been himſelf in a capacity of conferring obligations.—But alas! till induſtry is almoſt uſeleſs, he feels no inclination to be induſtrious; nor dreams of a cloſe application to his buſineſs, till he finds it ſcarcely poſſible to obtain a day's work.

Diſtracted

—Diſtracted at the gloomy condition of his circumſtances, he exclaims againſt the barbarity of thoſe who deal in proviſions; and pours continual curſes on the unfortunate huſbandman for the very calamities which were originally occaſioned by himſelf.

The more we conſider the ſituation of the poor in this country, the leſs occaſion every body will ſee for placing any part of their misfortunes to the public account; for the public has with a wildneſs of generoſity, eſtabliſhed ſuch inſtitutions throughout the kingdom, as muſt effectually preſerve even the diſſolute from want; attentive to nothing in the day of affliction, but the cry of their diſtreſs, we have provided an aſylum for the neceſſitous in their own pariſhes; and whether their indigence has ariſen from the common accidents of life, or abſolutely reſulted from their crimes, no enquiry whatſoever is made; the plea only of poverty is ſufficient to gain admiſſion, and the object, moſt entitled to our abhorrence, is as readily received as the perſon moſt entitled

entitled to our commiſſeration. — For theſe reaſons I cannot think that any reflexion ſhould be thrown upon our national humanity, whatever may be caſt upon our national underſtanding; ſince though we have not wiſdom enough to keep ſuch numbers in a condition of providing for themſelves, we have charity enough to grant them every neceſſary relief.

But as it will be much more ſalutary to think of ſome means to remove the preſent cauſes of general complaint, than merely to talk about them, I ſhall now conſider what methods are moſt likely to occaſion a conſtant plenty of proviſions, and a conſtant ſource of employment to the poor of this kingdom. — It has been lately mentioned, as a meaſure indiſpenſibly neceſſary to reduce the price of proviſions, to take off the bounty granted on the exportation of corn, that we might not pay the farmers for feeding our neighbours at a more moderate rate than ourſelves.—A ſtep of this nature it was thought, and thought juſtly, would effectually check the exportation.

—But the gentlemen who argue for the expediency of ſuch a proceeding, ſhould ſeriouſly conſider whether it would bring a greater quantity of grain to market.—If experience may be allowed to have any weight in the argument, and if by a knowledge of the paſt, we may pretend to form a tolerable judgment of the future, the caſe would be diametrically otherwiſe; before the wiſdom of government encouraged the growth of corn with national bounties, the price of this commodity was conſiderably higher than it has been, at *any* place, even in theſe days of ſcarcity, when under the pretence of a piercing neceſſity, the laws of the kingdom are infamouſly violated by the populace, and the induſtrious farmer daringly plundered of his property, becauſe he prudently endeavours at turning his goods to the moſt advantageous account: If then the buſineſs of tillage was ſo much neglected before an encouragement was granted to corn, is it an unreaſonable conjecture, that the diſcontinuance of the bounty, will again

again occaſion it to be neglected, and of conſequence by cauſing a ſcarcity of grain at market, again raiſe bread to the former exorbitant price? It was the bounty which firſt of all rendered the growth of corn ſo general in this kingdom, as to furniſh us with a conſtant and a plentiful ſupply; but the moment we take away the cauſe, we alſo take away the effect; and the moment we aim at prejudicing the intereſt of the farmer, we do the moſt material injury to ourſelves.

But ſurely if the removal of the bounty on corn is at any time injudicious, it muſt be peculiarly ſo, when our poor are every where exclaiming that they are totally deſtitute of bread.—At a period like this, one ſhould imagine that the humanity of thoſe worthy gentlemen who look with ſo compaſſionate an eye on the diſtreſſed, would rather think of mitigating the general misfortune, than of rendering it ſtill more irreparable; one would ſuppoſe that they would rather give additional rewards to the growth of

of corn, than dream of checking this growth, by the ſmalleſt diſcouragements; but alas! the glorious inconſiſtency for which we have been always remarkable, ſtill continues predominant in our character; to avoid little more than the calamity of an hour, we are opening the ſprings of certain miſery for years; and raiſing the farmers of other countries, to opulence, on the manifeſt deſtruction of our own. —What an obſtinacy of ignorance, what a perverſeneſs of infatuation! In fact, the meaſure is ſo extravagantly prepoſterous, that I am tempted to think it no leſs the offspring of wickedneſs, than weakneſs; and no leſs the reſult of a bad heart, than a narrow underſtanding.

The minds of the multitude are eaſily miſled, and the moſt trifling good that immediately ſeems to offer itſelf, is generally prefered to the moſt important benefits that are any way remote.—But yet, as the matter at preſent under conſideration is to the laſt degree ſerious, the public ought to weigh it attentively before

before they proceed to a final determination. — As it is almoſt certain in caſe the bounty is removed, that our farmers will in general neglect the buſineſs of tillage, and convert their lands to every other purpoſe, that carries an appearance of ſuperior advantage; is it not likely that our neighbours, when they find us under a neceſſity of purchaſing their corn at any rate, will be apt to make us buy it at a very extravagant price? Is it not likely, when we are in a manner left to their mercy, that we ſhall be obliged to pay the ſame exorbitant ſums for bread, which were paid, before we encourage our own farmers to raiſe corn? And ſhall we not beſides have this mortifying reflexion to aggravate our diſtreſſes, that every enormous exaction under which we muſt thus labour, will go to encreaſe the happineſs of our rivals or our enemies, inſtead of being circulated amongſt ourſelves.

Short-ſighted politicians are greatly ſurprized that the government ſhould pay a bounty upon the exportation of corn,

corn, and a number of well-meaning men have actually conſidered every ſhip load of grain ſent abroad, as an immediate injury to the market at home; they have thought it ſo much bread abſolutely taken out of Engliſh mouths, to ſupply the wants of foreigners, on a ſuppoſition that the ſame quantity of corn would be neceſſarily, raiſed in the kingdom, without the aſſiſtance of a bounty, as with the utmoſt ſupport of national encouragements: — theſe gentlemen muſt however be told again and again, that unleſs encouragements are given to tillage, and great ones too, the farmer will not grow any more corn than will be requiſite for the uſe of his own family, and we ſhall ſoon be reduced to the ſame neceſſity from which the bounty relieved us, namely that of ſending our money away to foreign markets for bread, inſtead of having thoſe markets continually requiring our aid, and pouring immenſe ſums as continually into the kingdom. —

I do

I do not however wonder in ſuch times of general corruption as theſe, to hear the greedy proſtitutes of a court, propoſing every method they can deviſe to retrench the expences of government, as there is a much greater probability, that all the ſavings in our national diſburſements will be divided among themſelves, than appropriated to the real advantage of the public; we are all of us fond of frugality in the management of the national revenues, and therefore conſtantly imagine, that the man is heartily our friend who talks about taking care of our money; yet if we make a proper examination into the ſtate of things, we ſhall find that theſe ſavings, inſtead of promoting the proſperity of the kingdom, anſwer no end but that of increaſing the miniſterial authority, and putting it more amply in the power of an arbitrary demagogue to rule with a rod of iron over his miſerable fellow ſubjects.—If therefore the bounty was not in the leaſt calculated to bring a plentiful ſupply of corn

to market, ſtill it would be better for us to ſee it in the hands of our induſtrious fellow ſubjects, who would circulate it in ſuch a round of commerce, as muſt be advantageous to our intereſt, than given as the wages of infamy to a number of our ſeeming patriots, who creep into the boſom of their country, with no other deſign but the villianous view of ſtinging her to the heart.—To prove that my fears on this occaſion, are not wholly without foundation, let us only conſider one moment, the hands into which the bounty, on corn, if taken off, muſt inevitably revert.—Muſt it not come under the direction of that very man who has already ſquandered away the public money with ſo wide, ſo unbounded, ſo unpardonable, a prodigality? muſt it not fall under the immediate management of that very man who, though he ſees us ſinking under the weight of numberleſs oppreſſions, chiefly thrown upon us by his own unaccountable want of diſcretion, nevertheleſs ſtill goes on to

parcel

parcel out the public revenues in penſions and places to his friends, alike regardleſs of our exclamations, and inſenſible of our diſtreſs? What are we to expect from the ſhameleſs profuſion of ſuch a man but poverty, from the extravagance of his phrenſy, but diſtraction and diſgrace? At the very moment he is miſemploying his power, would it not be madneſs to inveſt him with an additional ſhare of authority; and ſtupidity itſelf to put new reſources within his reach when he has ſo notoriouſly waſted the treaſures which we have already placed in his hands? Surplus revenues are dangerous things, as may be eaſily ſeen by the uſe which has been hitherto made of the overplus, ariſing from the ſinking and aggregate funds, therefore if freſh ſurpluſes are eſtabliſhed, we muſt expect that like the old ones they will be abſorbed *gurgite vaſto* in that bottomleſs PITT, which, though it has ſwallowed ſo many millions, of late years, is nevertheleſs, ſtill yawning for more,

and even diſtending it's ravenous jaws for our inevitable deſtruction.—But to return.

I know very well that in order to reconcile the corn growers, to a ready acquieſance with a removal of the bounty, it has been inſinuated that an alteration will take place in the land-tax by which they muſt be amply made amends—but ſurely if the land-tax is at preſent upon an inequitable footing it is the duty of a good miniſter to ſee it properly regulated, without exacting any conditions; that man muſt have a very ſtrange idea of things indeed, who requires a conſideration for performing a common act of juſtice.—However to argue with gentlemen upon their own principles, I muſt beg to know in what manner the preſent inequality of the land-tax is intended to be removed? Are the high taxed counties to pay leſs; or is a greater ſum to be charged upon thoſe which are but moderately aſſeſſed?—This is a queſtion which they do not care to anſwer, and

and from their tardineſs to reply, we may naturally ſuppoſe they cannot do it to our ſatisfaction.—But if, as it is moſt likely, inſtead of mitigating the diſtreſſes of the counties exorbitantly taxed they will endeavour to enhance the burdens of thoſe which are not ſo heavily loaded; every body muſt admire the mode of recompenſing the corn counties for the removal of the bounty, and think that they are not a little obliged to the miniſtry for the mighty favour of making their friends every whit as miſerable as themſelves.—Upon the whole, in reſpect to this point, the high taxed counties are intitled to juſtice for the ſake of juſtice; if the pound rate upon them is exceſſive, let government reduce it; let not the bounty upon corn be removed, ſince the whole community, as I have already made apparent, muſt be infinitely greater ſufferers, by ſuch a meaſure, than the mere individuals who deal at preſent in that commodity—It is not for the corn counties I argue, but for the national good;

which is immediately intereſted in the queſtion; and if the public does not feel any concern for the welfare of the farmer, it ought at leaſt to manifeſt a ſenſible ſolicitude about it's own.

Having in the courſe of the foregoing obſervations ſhewn that nothing but the encouragement which we give to tillage, can ever ſecure a plentiful ſupply of corn in this kingdom; I ſhall now take my leave of the reader, with a few remarks on the means of recovering our manufactures from that unhappy ſtate of languor in which they have ſo long been abſorb'd; it is a melancholy conſideration, while our artizans ſurpaſs all the mechanics of Europe in excellence of workmanſhip, that ſuch numbers ſhould remain continually unemployed; and ſurpriſing that even in ſome articles, as in hats particularly, the French ſhould be able to underſell us every where, though they are obliged to buy the raw materials at an advanced price from ourſelves. — There is no country in the univerſe perhaps where manual labour is ſo amply rewarded, as in England; the exceſſive

price

price which it bears, cannot in the nature of things but raiſe the value of manufactures; and the enormous load of taxes which is placed upon almoſt every thing manufactured, ſtill adding to this value, our various commodities are at laſt rendered ſo extravagantly dear, that foreigners cannot afford to take them in any quantity off our hands; but rather chooſe to buy thoſe even of an inferior quality, when the rate is more upon a level with their circumſtances; this being the evident cauſe of the great decline in our manufactures, it muſt conſequently follow, that till we reduce the price of labour, and the weight of our taxes, we never can expect that regular ſhare of the European market, to which a nation of our commercial conſequence would otherwiſe be entitled.—It muſt therefore be the buſineſs of government, inſtead only of varying the mode of taxation, to leſſen the actual burden of public taxes; and this may be ſoon done if the numberleſs places, which have great ſalaries, without requiring any duty;

ty; and the numberleſs penſions, which are granted without ever being deſerved, were judiciouſly appropriated to the uſe of the kingdom.—But alas! while the only contention between our patriots is, who ſhall engroſs the greateſt ſhare of power, we muſt look for additional oppreſſions, where we ought to find the moſt inſtant relief; ſince every new miniſter will ſtrike out a new impoſition to maintain his importance, and gratify the avarice of his venal dependents.

If we could once obtain a reduction of our taxes, it would not be difficult for government to regulate the juſt value of labour; nor impoſſible ſo to lower the price of manufactures, to give the artizans of England that preference over the whole world, which they are juſtly entitled to from their ſuperior abilities—but if inſtead of ſtudying how to remove old oppreſſions, our rulers are only ſtudious to find out methods of loading us with new; and if our mechanics, to ſupport a life of lazineſs and extravagance, muſt have as much

for

for four days labour, even in the midſt of all our diſtreſſes, as in conſcience ought to purchaſe ſix, we cannot expect but what our manufactures muſt be conſtantly under-ſold in all the foreign markets; nor think but what the preſent misfortunes, of which they are complaining, are more likely to be aggravated than removed.

Thus Sir, have I preſumed to deliver my opinion of the public diſtreſſes, and pointed out what I apprehend the readieſt method to remove them, I have nothing now to do, but to aſk your pardon for treſpaſſing ſo much upon your patience; upon recollection an apology of this nature would be little better than an inſult to any man who, like you, entertains a generous regard for the welfare of his country.—I ſhall therefore only add that I am with great regard,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

J. W.

FINIS.